

WEST

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DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6369850 B1

TITLE: Imaging device

Detailed Description Text (2):

As shown in FIG. 2, an imaging device according to the present invention comprises a sensor 101 as detecting means for detecting infrared energy radiated from a subject, converting the detected infrared energy into an electric signal, and outputting the electric signal, an amplifier 102 as first amplifying means for amplifying the electric signal from the sensor 101 and outputting the amplified electric signal, a control block 106 for determining low-illuminance and high-illuminance areas of the subject based on a relatively less amplified electric signal of the electric signal outputted from the amplifier 102, generating an offset level, a designated amplification factor, and a display switching signal within one frame, a subtractor 103 for subtracting the offset level outputted from the control block 106 from the electric signal outputted from the amplifier 102, a variable-gain amplifier 104 for amplifying a signal outputted from the subtractor 103 based on the designated amplification factor outputted from the control block 106 and outputting the amplified signal, and a display circuit 105 as display means for selectively displaying the low-illuminance and high-illuminance areas of the subject and an intermediate-illuminance area, if any, of the subject based on the signal outputted from the variable-gain amplifier 104 according to the display switching signal outputted from the control block 106. The subtractor 103 may be replaced with an adder if the sign of the offset level is changed.

US Reference US Original Classification (1):

374/124

US Reference Group (1):

4121459 19781000 MaCall et al. 374/124